

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Agency 165

Board of Accountancy

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	9.3		1,994	1,994
Total Maintenance Level	9.3		1,938	1,938
Difference			(56)	(56)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%		(2.8)%	(2.8)%
Performance Changes				
General Inflation			(9)	(9)
Subtotal			(9)	(9)
Total Proposed Budget	9.3		1,929	1,929
Difference			(65)	(65)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%		(3.3)%	(3.3)%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Regulation of Public Accountants	7.6		1,638	1,638
Investigation of Public Accountants	1.7		291	291
Total Proposed Budget	9.3		1,929	1,929

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Regulation of Public Accountants

As required by RCW 18.04, the Board of Accountancy issues licenses to Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), CPA firms, and firm owners to ensure public protection and the reliability of financial information. The board establishes and audits compliance with education, examination, good character, ethics, and experience requirements prior to licensure. The board administers and grades the CPA examination of each Washington State applicant. To ensure CPAs continue to meet established standards of performance and ethics requirements, the board reviews Washington CPAs, reviews and monitors charges by other states against Washington CPAs and firms, and audits compliance with continuing professional education requirements. The board provides general and specific consumer protection information and is funded by license fees paid by CPAs, firms, and firm owners.

Investigation of Public Accountants

As required by RCW 18.04, the Board of Accountancy investigates Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), CPA firms, and firm owners in response to complaints regarding their compliance with technical and ethical standards established by: the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Federal Accounting Standards Board, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, the Cost Accounting Standards Board, the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, the U.S. General Accounting Office, the federal Office of Management and Budget, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Internal Revenue Service, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, other federal and state agencies, the Public Accountancy Act, and board rules. The board also investigates and takes action against individuals illegally posing as CPAs. The board's investigations provide legal evidence for board enforcement action against CPAs, CPA firms, firm owners, and non-CPAs who violate the above-listed technical and ethical standards, and federal and state laws, regulations, and rules. The investigations are funded by license fees paid by CPAs, CPA firms, and firm owners.